

Message Text

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INR-10 INRE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2282

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: ILLEGALS: TEXT OF MEXICAN NOTE ON BRACEROS

REF: MEXICO 5131 MEXICO 5171

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF FIRST PERSON NOTE SENT BY FONSECRETARIAT ON JUNE 19 (REFTEL).

2. "AT THE OUTSET OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND ON PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY UNDERTOOK A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE EXISTING STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY -- AND TO SEEK TO RESOLVE -- THE ISSUES THEN OUTSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. "THE PURPOSE WAS TO ANALYZE THOSE PROBLEMS WHICH, IN THE JUDGMENT OF MEXICO, HAD NOT BEEN SATISFACTORILY SOLVED; (THIS ANALYSIS WAS TO BE ACHIEVED) THROUGH RIGOROUS AND EXACT APPLICATION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS OR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SOUNDEST AND MOST HEALTHY DIPLOMATIC PRACTICES. IN THIS WAY, THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE IMPROVED AND FORTIFIED.

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4. "TWO OF THE MOST PRESSING QUESTIONS, THE SOURCE OF PERMANENT IRRITATION FOR MEXICO, WERE THOSE RELATIVE TO THE PROBLEM OF COLORADO RIVER SALINITY AND THE SITUATION OF THOSE MEXICANS WHO TRADITIONALLY HAVE GONE TO THE UNITED STATES IN SEARCH OF TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT.

5. "PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, IN HIS JUNE 1972 VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS DURING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON ON SEEKING A PROMPT AND JUST SOLUTION TO THE TWO AFOREMENTIONED PROBLEMS.

6. "WITH RESPECT TO COLORADO RIVER SALINITY, BOTH CHIEFS-OF-STATE AGREED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. HENCE, PRESIDENT NIXON DESIGNATED A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO CARRIED OUT EXTENSIVE TALKS WITH ME WHICH RESULTED IN A FELICITOUS CONCLUSION THROUGH THE SIGNING OF MINUTE 242 AT MEXICO CITY ON AUGUST 30, 1973; (THAT MINUTE) SIGNALLED THE DEFINITIVE AND PERMANENT END TO THIS VEXATIOUS PROBLEM.

7. "UNDER THE TERMS OF MINUTE 242, FROM JULY 1 ONWARD MEXICO WILL RECEIVE AND IS ASSURED WATERS OF A QUALITY SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL TO THAT AT IMPERIAL DAM IN THE UNITED STATES, AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THE ANNUAL QUOTA OF 1.5 MILLION ACRE FEET AS SPECIFIED IN THE 1944 WATER TREATY.

8. "CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF MEXICAN MIGRATORY WORKERS, REFERRING TO THE PERTINENT SECTION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 16, 1972, THE TWO PRESIDENTS ANALYZED THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FACTORS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH PRODUCE THE PHENOMENON AND AGREED ON THE NEED FOR EACH GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY TO UNDERTAKE TO STUDY THIS QUESTION WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

9. "WITHOUT DELAY MEXICO CREATED AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION UNDER THE COORDINATION OF THE SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS WHICH UNDERTOOK SERIOUS AND THOROUGH STUDIES, THE PRODUCT NOT ONLY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF EXPERTS IN THE MATTER BUT ALSO OF THE COLLECTION OF DATA AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORMULATION OF STATISTICS WHICH WERE OBTAINED DURING THE VISITS OF VARIOUS MEXICAN OFFICIALS TO DIFFERENT POINTS ALONG THE FRONTIER, PAINSTAKING INSPECTIONS OF PLACES AND OF FACTS, AND CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION (AND NATURALIZATION) SERVICE.

10. "THESE STUDIES AND OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE KNOWN BOTH IN MEXICO CITY AND IN WASHINGTON. THE AMERICAN REPRE-

SENTATIVES ON THESE OCCASIONS LIMITED THEMSELVES MERELY
TO TAKING NOTE.

11. "CONFRONTED WITH THIS SITUATION, I REPEATEDLY HAVE
GONE TO ALL DIPLOMATIC LEVELS IN THE UNITED STATES PROPOSING
A CONCRETE AND IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM THROUGH
THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT -- THE JURIDICAL NATURE OF WHICH
COULD BE DETERMINED LATER -- WHICH WOULD CONTAIN THREE
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS:

A. THAT THERE BE ESTABLISHED AN ANNUAL QUOTA FIXED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEMAND REQUIRED BY THE AMERICAN
EMPLOYERS SO THAT MEXICAN WORKERS BE PERMITTED LEGALLY TO
ENTER AND WORK IN THE UNITED STATES.

B. THAT THE ABOVEMENTIONED WORKERS BE GRANTED THE
SAME TREATMENT AND CONDITIONS AS THEIR AMERICAN COUNTER-
PARTS WORKING IN COMPARABLE JOBS.

C. THAT GREATER REPRESENTATION, ACCESS AND PERSONAL
STATUS BE GRANTED TO MEXICAN CONSULAR OFFICIALS ACCREDITED
IN THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST AND
MOST CONTINUOUS PROTECTION TO MEXICAN MIGRANTS.

12. "LAMENTABLY, LITTLE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. OF THE
THREE POINTS SINGLEDD OUT ABOVE, ONLY THE LAST HAS MET A
PARTIAL RESPONSE THROUGH THE AGREEMENT, BASED ON THE
SPECIFIC REQUEST OF THIS CHANCERY, THAT MEXICAN CONSULAR
REPRESENTATIVES BE ASSIGNED ON A PERMANENT BASIS TO THE
SO-CALLED 'DETENTION CENTERS' IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR
CO-NATIONALS DETAINED THEREIN, TO ASSURE THAT THEY
RECEIVE GOOD TREATMENT, AND TO RESPOND TO THEIR COMPLAINTS
RELATIVE TO UNPAID SALARIES, ETC.

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2283

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13. "THIS CHANCERY CONSIDERS THAT THE EXISTENCE OF 'DETENTION CENTERS' -- WHOSE VERY NAME IS INDICATIVE OF A SITUATION WHICH SHOULD BE REMEDIED PROMPTLY -- CONTRIBUTES NOTHING TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM; RATHER, IT AGGRAVATES (THE PROBLEM) BY PROPITIATING (SP: PRPICIA) IN MOST CASES AN EXCESSIVELY RIGOROUS TREATMENT OF THOSE WHO ARE TEMPORARILY DETAINED IN THOSE CENTERS.

14. "IN KEEPING WITH ALL THE FOREMENTIONED, MY GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZES ITS ABSOLUTE INCONFORMITY WITH THE EXISTENCE AND OPERATION OF THE DETENTION CENTERS AND REQUESTS THAT MEXICAN WORKERS BE GRANTED JUST, DECOROUS AND HUMANE TREATMENT.

15. "THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IS NOT FOUND THEREIN, HOWEVER, BUT IN THE RECOGNITION THAT THERE CONTINUES TO EXIST A DEMAND FOR MEXICAN LABOR IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELDS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THIS PHENOMENON SHOULD BE JURIDICALLY REGULATED BY MEANS OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN KEEPING WITH THE GENERAL LINES WHICH HAVE BEEN POSTULATED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS AND WHICH I REPEAT IN THIS NOTE.

16. "ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
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MEXICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO REGULATE THE ENTRY INTO CANADA OF MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS. A PART OF THIS AGREEMENT IS AN INDIVIDUAL LABOR CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES BY MEXICANS IN CANADA. THESE INSTRUMENTS GUARANTEE THAT MEXICAN LABORERS RECEIVE ADEQUATE LODGING AND PAY, AS WELL AS JUST AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT WHILE THEY PERFORM THEIR SERVICES. ANNEXED TO THIS NOTE ARE (COPIES OF) THE AFOREMENTIONED DOCUMENTS WHICH WELL MIGHT SERVE AS AN

EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW IN THE AGREEMENT WHICH MEXICO SEEKS
WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THIS MATTER.

17. "(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.)
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